IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims are set forth below. Cancelled claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (previously presented), (cancelled), (withdrawn), or (new).

Please AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1.   (Currently Amended) An external-character font creation system for creating external-character fonts <u>from master fonts that comprise master codes</u>, the external-character font creation system comprising:

a display unit displaying an external-character code registration <u>interface</u> screen ~~based on~~<u>which is used to register various of the master codes into</u> an external-character code table that shows a correspondence between ~~an~~<u>master codes and respective</u> external-character code<u>s</u> of ~~an~~external character<u>s</u> to be registered ~~and a master code~~; ~~and~~

an edit unit registering a master code corresponding to an external-character code in the external-character code <u>table;</u> ~~table.~~

<u>a font selection screen which is used when selecting an external-character font file created corresponding to an external-character font file from among a plurality of external-character files created based on a correspondence relationship between a master font and an external-character font;</u>

<u>a font selecting section selecting a plurality of external-character fonts of the external-character file by using the font selection screen; and</u>

<u>an external-character file creating section creating an external-character file of the external-character font selected by the font selecting section.</u>

2.   (Canceled.)

3.   (Currently Amended) The external-character font creation system according to Claim 1, the external-character font creation system further comprising a character pattern

reference file definition table which is used when defining a master-font file in which a character pattern defined by the master code is referred to among a plurality of master-font files that are classified into types of designs of ~~external-character~~ character fonts.

4.   (Currently Amended) The external-character font creation system according to Claim 1, the external-character font creation system further comprising a character pattern registering section copying a character pattern from a master-font file into an external-character file based on a master code, using the external-character code registration screen.

5.   (Currently Amended) The external-character font creation system according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the external-character code table lists character patterns in place of master codes~~ character patterns are listed in the external-character code table.

6.   (Currently Amended) The external-character font creation system according to Claim 3, the external-character font creation system further comprising a character shape confirmation font file storing character patterns which makes it possible to confirm character shapes of master ~~codes,~~ fonts as character patterns created in accordance with master codes, as another master font file.

7.   (Original) The external-character font creation system according to Claim 3, wherein a master-font file defined within the character pattern reference file definition table is either a master-font file by design type or a symbol master-font file.

8.   (Original) The external-character font creation system according to Claim 3, wherein a master-font file defined within the character pattern reference file definition table is either a master-font file by design type or a master-font file of a specific design.

9.   (Currently Amended) A program recording medium recorded with a program for making a computer create an external-character ~~font,~~ fonts from master fonts that comprise master codes, wherein the program recording medium is recorded with a program for making the computer ~~achieve~~ perform a process, the process comprising:

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a display function ~~for~~ of displaying an external-character code registration interface screen ~~based on~~ which is used to register various of the master codes into an external-character code table that shows a correspondence between ~~an~~ master codes and respective external-character code of an external character to be registered ~~and a master code~~, ~~and~~

an edit function ~~for~~ of registering a master code corresponding to an external-character code in the external-character code ~~table.~~ table;

a font selection screen which is used when selecting an external-character font file created corresponding to an external-character font file from among a plurality of external-character files created based on a correspondence relationship between a master font and an external-character font;

a font selecting section selecting a plurality of external-character fonts of the external-character file by using the font selection screen; and

an external-character file creating section creating an external-character file of the external-character font selected by the font selecting section.

10.   (Canceled.)

11.   (Currently Amended) The program recording medium according to Claim 9, wherein

the program recording medium is further recorded with a program for making the computer achieve

a function of creating a character pattern reference file definition table ~~for~~ which is used when defining a master-font file in which a character pattern defined by the master code is referred to among a plurality of master-font files that are classified into types of designs of ~~external-character~~ character fonts.

12.   (Canceled)

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13. ' (New) A method, comprising:

storing a master font code scheme comprising different master character codes associated with respective different master graphic character patterns;

providing a graphical user interface with which a user builds and stores an external font code scheme by interactively assigning different of the master character codes to respective different external character codes of the external font code scheme; and

processing the external font code scheme to build a font file for the external font code scheme, the processing comprising using the master character codes in the external font code scheme to find their corresponding master graphic character patterns in the master font code scheme and writing the external character codes and their respective found master graphic character patterns into the font file for the external font code scheme.

14. (New) A method according to claim 13,

wherein the graphical user interface is used to build different external font code schemes with different corresponding sets of external character codes and respective assigned master character codes, and

wherein the processing is performed to build font files for the respective different external font code schemes.

15. (New) A method according to claim 14, wherein the different font files correspond to different font formats displayable by an operating system.

16. (New) A method according to claim 13, wherein the method allows the same master font code scheme and its master graphic patterns to be used to build different external font code schemes and corresponding font files using the master graphic patterns of the master font code scheme.